United Nations A/73/90

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 June 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 114 (d) of the preliminary list*
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I would like to inform you that the Government of Bangladesh has decided to present its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the period 2019–2021, the elections to which will be held in New York in 2018. Bangladesh previously served on the Council as a member for three terms: 2007–2009, 2010–2012 and 2015–2017.

I am happy to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of Bangladesh in connection with our candidature (see annex).

(*Signed*) Masud **Bin Momen**

* A/73/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Bangladesh to the Human Rights Council, 2019–2021

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Bangladesh's human rights obligations emanate from its Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. In the preamble of the Constitution, the people of Bangladesh pledge that it shall be a fundamental aim of the State to realize "a society in which the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedom, equality and justice, political, economic and social, will be secured for all citizens". A set of legally enforceable fundamental rights is provided in the Constitution, reproducing the civil and political rights prescribed in the international human rights instruments. In addition, the Fundamental Principles of State Policy enumerate universally recognized economic, social and cultural rights, which are ensured through sustained and inclusive development policies.

2. Born of a heroic war fought by its common people against oppressors, the concepts of human rights and fundamental freedoms stand at the very core of Bangladesh's statehood. The people of Bangladesh defeated, on successive occasions, unconstitutional and undemocratic forces through mass movements. Its foreign relations, too, have always been guided by the values of democracy, peace, and respect for individual rights. Bangladesh is the only country whose people have sacrificed their lives to preserve their right to speak in their mother tongue, which has been duly recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

3. Bangladesh considers all human rights as universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. As for the promotion and protection of human rights, Bangladesh always adheres to the principle of international cooperation and dialogue. As a responsible member of the international community, Bangladesh actively participates in constructive dialogue with the institutions developed under the aegis of the United Nations, including the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms.

4. Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights through the current democratic Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, who assumed office in 2009. The contribution of Bangladesh to the field of human rights and humanitarian law has served people beyond its boundaries. Thus, in terms of best practices, Bangladesh has a lot to offer to the international community.

Bangladesh's role in protecting victims of human rights violations, including forced displacement

5. It is their deep-rooted affinity for the oppressed and the vulnerable that has made the people and the Government of Bangladesh open their homes and hearts to more than 1 million Rohingya who fled Myanmar to evade ethnic cleansing. Since 25 August 2017, nearly 700,000 forcibly displaced nationals of Myanmar have crossed the border and taken shelter in Bangladesh, making it the fastest-growing international displacement crisis in history. In addition, for the past three decades,

Bangladesh has hosted another 300,000 Rohingya who had long suffered from systematic persecution on the grounds of race and religion in Myanmar.

6. While Bangladesh has been providing the displaced Rohingya with shelter, food, health care and other basic services for their sustenance, diplomatic efforts to secure their rights have continued, primarily the right to a safe, dignified and sustainable return to their homes in Myanmar. Bangladesh eventually succeeded in signing bilateral return arrangements with Myanmar. However, mindful of the conditions that are critical for safe return, Bangladesh has negotiated the inclusion of non-criminalization, livelihood, resettlement, reintegration and other universal elements of human rights in the bilateral return arrangements and involved the relevant United Nations agencies in the return process.

7. With regard to a permanent solution to the problems of forcibly displaced Rohingya, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh made a five-point proposal to the General Assembly that included: (a) the unconditional, immediate and permanent cessation of violence and ethnic cleansing on the part of Myanmar; (b) sending a fact-finding mission to Myanmar; (c) the protection of all civilians in Myanmar, irrespective of their religion and ethnicity, through the creation of "safe zones"; (d) the sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingya to their homes in Myanmar; (e) the immediate, unconditional and full implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

8. Bangladesh also initiated and facilitated the adoption of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar in the Third Committee of the General Assembly, at its seventy-second session, and, subsequently, in the Assembly. In the Human Rights Council, Bangladesh convened the twenty-seventh special session of the Council, on the human rights situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, on 5 December 2017, which resulted in the adoption of a resolution on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

9. Bangladesh has provided full and unhindered access to all international partners and agencies, including the United Nations, humanitarian actors, the media and other civil society organizations, to work in Cox's Bazar and provide assistance to the Rohingya. In addition, Bangladesh has remained constructively engaged with the United Nations and other international mechanisms, including the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other human rights and international non-governmental entities, in forging a stable and lasting solution to the suffering of the Rohingya by addressing its root causes, which lie in Myanmar, and resolving it in a peaceful and sustainable manner.

Progress made in the field of human rights in Bangladesh

10. Bangladesh is determined to fulfil its constitutional obligations, as well as its international commitments, through a variety of legislative and administrative measures and socioeconomic development programmes. It has strived to achieve, to the extent possible, the goals stipulated in the voluntary pledges made previously. Some accomplishments are enumerated below:

- The Government adopted various policies in recent years to ensure equity and equality in the enjoyment of fundamental rights. Major policies include the National Nutrition Policy 2015, the National Drug Policy 2016, the Domestic Workers' Protection and Welfare Policy 2015 and the National Online Mass Media Policy 2017.

- To protect the best interests of children, particularly girl children, the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 was enacted, repealing the earlier Act of 1929. The new Act provides for preventive measures (e.g. education, vocational training and job opportunities) against child marriage and for stronger sanctions for the practice of child marriage.

- To empower marginalized communities and ensure citizens' right to social security in cases of underserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, as well as in cases of suffering by widows or orphans or in old age, the Government adopted the National Social Security Strategy in 2015 and has initiated the Life-Cycle-based Social Security Agenda in order to equally and inclusively cover people in all age groups within the social security net. The Government has also declared 2 January as Social Service Day.

- In the budget for the financial year 2017/18, the Government, under its various social security measures, allocated allowances for 1,150,000 destitute and deserted women and 3,500,000 elderly women, including widows and oppressed women. In addition, 500,000 women received a maternity allowance and 825,000 disabled persons received a disability allowance.

- After officially recognizing transgender persons as a third gender in 2014, the Government took various measures for their rehabilitation in society. A special grant worth 110 million taka has been allocated for transgender persons in the financial year 2017/18, which ensures a monthly allowance to older transgender persons and a stipend to transgender students.

- Under the existing Labour Act of Bangladesh, the Labour Rules 2015 have been adopted to ensure the rights of workers, as well as maintain a decent work environment. To promote freedom of association, the Government has encouraged the formation of trade unions at all levels. Currently, 8,015 trade unions are active, among them 632 in the ready-made garment sector.

- Based on the Constitution and the rules of procedure of Parliament, a total of 39 parliamentary standing committees have been put in place. In addition, full independence and autonomy have been granted to the State institutions to freely perform their designated functions. The National Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission have been strengthened in terms of size and capacity.

- There are 32 television channels, including 4 State-owned channels, and 22 FM radio and 17 community radio channels currently operating in Bangladesh. Moreover, at present, 2,800 newspapers are being published in Bangladesh. The country also allows free access to all international television channels. Access to information has been greatly enhanced through widespread and unhindered Internet outlets.

- Bangladesh, as an early achiever of the Millennium Development Goals, adopted necessary national policies and strategies for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals set in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that no one is left behind.

- Bangladesh has made significant progress towards the economic emancipation of its people in terms of sustainable economic growth, an increase in per capita income, better food security, an enhanced disaster management capability and high achievements in social sectors, particularly in women's empowerment and the health-care sector. For instance, the poverty rate has declined substantially (to 24.3 per cent from 31.5 per cent in 2010), the per capita income rose to $1,610 within a decade ($543 in financial year 2005/06), life expectancy increased to 71.6 years, 80 per cent of the population has been brought under

electricity coverage and 97.9 per cent under improved drinking water coverage and 73.5 per cent is provided with improved sanitation facilities.

- Bangladesh is a country with rich ethnic, religious and cultural diversity. The Government attaches special importance to the socioeconomic development of the ethnic minorities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and also regularly joins international forums to promote the rights of ethnic minorities all over the world.

- Bangladesh encourages the contribution of civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to national socioeconomic development, as well as to the promotion and protection of human rights. Their activities range from health care to non-formal education, women's empowerment and microcredit programmes. NGOs and community-based organizations contribute significantly to the protection of civil and political rights though various advocacy initiatives. Currently 3,075 (2,777 local and 298 international) NGOs registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau are working in Bangladesh.

- Trials of individuals accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and other international crimes committed during the war of liberation in 1971 by the International Crimes Tribunal have created a new era of justice for Bangladesh by shattering the culture of impunity that had kept the society crippled for decades. The Tribunal has disposed of 29 cases and the process has remained open, impartial and exhaustive in safeguarding the rights of the accused.

Contribution at the global level

11. Bangladesh plays a constructive role in the international arena through the promotion of cooperation and dialogue, particularly at the United Nations. It strives to build consensus on important issues in different international forums. Some of its undertakings are as follows:

- Bangladesh attaches high importance to the activities of the Human Rights Council and cooperates regularly with the Council and its various mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, to uphold its commitments under the relevant international human rights instruments.

- In the Human Rights Council, Bangladesh is the main sponsor of the annual resolution on human rights and climate change. Bangladesh has contributed to the work of the Council by actively participating in informal consultations on the resolutions and decisions of the Council.

- Bangladesh has provided the necessary support to the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar established pursuant to Council resolution 34/22 by facilitating the visit of its members and associates to Bangladesh and providing access to the Rohingya camps.

- Bangladesh has remained engaged with OHCHR by responding favourably to its invitations to meetings. The Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, accompanied by the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, held an interactive discussion with the High Commissioner in the latter's office on 25 August 2017. In addition, the Government of Bangladesh has facilitated the visits of the OHCHR fact-finding mission in January 2017 and its rapid response mission in September 2017 to Rohingya camps.

- In the past three years Bangladesh has submitted the highest number of treaty-body reports to the concerned committees, including the initial reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2015, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and

Members of Their Families in 2015, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2017 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2017. Bangladesh also submitted its eighth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2016 and its fifth periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2015.

- Bangladesh welcomed the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeld, as he carried out a nine-day visit, in September 2015, to assess the state of freedom of religion or belief in the country. Bangladesh has also responded favourably to requests for meetings from the special procedures mechanism, such as the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearance.

- Bangladesh has hosted the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (2017, 2018), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2017), members of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar (2017) and three investigative teams from OHCHR (2017), among others, to collect information and engage in advocacy for the protection of human rights of the Rohingya.

- Bangladesh is a leading contributor to United Nations peacekeeping. Peacekeepers from Bangladesh are working in difficult circumstances in many post-conflict situations to protect the lives and human rights of peoples, particularly women and children. To further contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, the Government has established the Bangladesh Peacebuilding Centre in Dhaka. Bangladesh has also made voluntary contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund.

- In line with its zero-tolerance policy on any kind of sexual violence or abuse, Bangladesh responded positively to the call of the Secretary-General to end sexual exploitation and abuse. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh joined the circle of leadership established by the Secretary General in this regard and has also made contributions to the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

- Bangladesh actively participates in the universal periodic review of States and provides recommendations on the promotion and protection of human rights in many parts of the world.

- The Government of Bangladesh maintains a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and violent extremism. Bangladesh has partnered with the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund to engage community-based organizations and continues to remain a reliable partner of the United Nations in fighting terrorism and preventing violent extremism, globally, regionally and nationally, by addressing its root causes in order to strengthen human rights.

- Bangladesh considers international migration as an inevitable and essential factor in the development process and, as a signatory of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, actively promotes the rights of migrant workers and their families throughout the entire migration cycle. Bangladesh, as Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, hosted the ninth summit of the Global Forum, from 10 to 12 December 2016, which, inter alia, discussed the human rights of migrants and the good governance of migration.

Voluntary pledges and commitments

12. Bangladesh makes the following pledges:

At the domestic level, Bangladesh will:

- Continue to host the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals until they return to their homeland in safety, security and dignity
- Continue to take initiatives to develop national policies and strategies aimed at the realization of fundamental rights and principles as enshrined in the Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights instruments to which it is a party
- Consider acceding to the remaining international and regional human rights instruments on the basis of consensus forged through national consultation processes, as appropriate
- Continue to enact and/or update, to the extent necessary, national legislation to implement the international human rights instruments to which it is a party
- Continue to cooperate and engage with OHCHR, as well as the special procedures mechanism of the Human Rights Council, with a view to further improving its human rights situation
- Sustain the trend of further strengthening and empowering the statutory and watchdog bodies, such as the National Human Rights Commission, the National Election Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Information Commission
- Ensure effective parliamentary oversight, including through the parliamentary standing committees, and enhance the transparency and accountability of public accounts
- Continue to preserve the independence of the judiciary
- Continue to preserve freedom of the press and promote the constructive role of civil society and print, electronic and social media in the promotion of human rights at all levels
- Continue to provide capacity-building and training programmes in the field of human rights to law enforcement officials, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, journalists, civil servants, parliamentarians and the media
- Continue its pro-people development agenda, with particular attention to women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable sections of the population, including through the continued application and innovation of home-grown concepts
- Continue to widen the coverage of the social safety net with enhanced allocation of resources with a view to achieving further economic empowerment and social security of citizens
- Continue to promote and protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities and work towards maintaining the traditional communal harmony by upholding the secular, pluralist and inclusive values of the State and society in general
- Continue to strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of workers and progressively realize decent working conditions across all sectors of the economy
- Continue to take adequate social and developmental measures for promoting the education and well-being of women and girls, with a view to ending child marriage

- Continue to strengthen its efforts to ensure the provision for the basic needs of its people, including for food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care and access to water and sanitation, as a means to effectively ensure the enjoyment of all human rights
- Further strengthen the legal and policy framework for the elimination of violence as well as discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups in society, including transgender persons
- Continue to take meaningful measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure justice for the victims of such exploitation and abuse
- Promote the role of women, youth, teachers, local leaders and other stakeholders in society in preventing violent extremism and intolerance in order to ensure the enjoyment of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental freedoms

At the international level, the Government of Bangladesh will:

- Continue to extend its support to the Human Rights Council in its work towards the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in a fair and equal manner
- Strengthen its constructive engagement and cooperation with other members of the Human Rights Council to make it an efficient and effective body
- Engage constructively with all parties, on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, to resolve challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent human rights violations throughout the world
- Continue to support the work of OHCHR in fulfilling its mandate
- Continue to support the United Nations agencies, programmes and funds that facilitate the promotion of human rights
- Promote the realization of the right to development as an inalienable right for all peoples and individuals, and support ongoing efforts to further develop the concept and its operationalization on the basis of practical applications
- Continue to combat climate change at the national and international levels in order to further enhance the interface between the human rights and the climate change communities
- Continue to promote a culture of peace, take collective measures against racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia and protect victims against such crimes
- Continue to promote and advocate for the rights and well-being of migrant workers throughout the entire migration cycle
- Continue to participate in the international discourse towards the formulation of global compacts on migration and refugees in order to develop a just and equitable global regime on human mobility
- Continue to work with the international community in creating awareness of genocide and crimes against humanity, promote collective action to prevent genocide and similar crimes anywhere and at any time and support initiatives aimed at ensuring justice for the victims of genocide

13. As a State party to almost all core international human rights instruments and one of the active players in the formulation of the international human rights agenda, Bangladesh presents its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2019–2021.

United Nations A/73/91

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 June 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (l) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 71/59 on measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, the General Assembly renewed its previous call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol and reaffirmed the vital necessity of upholding its provisions, called upon those States that continued to maintain reservations to the Protocol to withdraw them and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at the seventy-third session.

2. Since the adoption of the resolution, no withdrawals of reservations by States parties have been reported by the depositary of the Protocol.

3. Should the Secretary-General receive notice of such withdrawals, Member States will be duly informed.

* A/73/50.

18-10194 (E) 280618

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United Nations A/73/92

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 June 2018

Original: Arabic/English/Spanish

Seventy-third session
Item 99 (h) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/73/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 72/47, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", the General Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they had adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 5 February 2018 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are contained in section II below. Any replies received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament) in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2018]

The observance of environmental norms should be an imperative in all aspects of public life, including in the drafting and implementation of disarmament and arms control treaties.

In that regard, it should be noted that the second International Convention on Science, Technology and Innovation was held in Havana from 5 to 9 March. The programme comprised 10 parallel events, with the participation of over 1,200 professionals from 39 countries, and successfully addressed the question of the environment in the sphere of disarmament and security.

Cuba, which is a State party to, inter alia, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, ensures strict observance of environmental norms and the other obligations arising from those instruments.

The relevant Cuban authorities rigorously enforce a solid legal basis for the implementation of international obligations relating to the observance of environmental norms.

Cuba welcomes the signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and affirms the high priority placed on nuclear disarmament. It also greatly appreciates the fact that this international legal instrument includes specific provisions relating to the environment.

International peace and security, the fragile environmental balance of our planet and its sustainable development are seriously threatened by the continued refinement and latent possibility of the use of weapons of mass destruction. Their total elimination is the only truly effective way to avoid harmful consequences of the use of such weapons.

Forums for negotiations of international treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation must take the relevant environmental norms fully into account.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[27 April 2018]

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Army Command reaffirms that Lebanon possesses no weapons that affect or harm the environment, and that Lebanon supports the agreements on disarmament, arms control and the observance of environmental standards. It is, however, deeply concerned that the Israeli enemy possesses and maintains a massive arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, which could be harmful to the environment, even if they are not used.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[14 May 2018]

With regard to environmental norms, we can report that areas contaminated with war materiel were conveyed to the Ministry of Environment for use, safekeeping and administration, through an inter-agency agreement on technical cooperation and allocation whereby the Ministry of Economy and Finance, on behalf of the nation, transferred approximately 55,195.56 hectares containing protected areas, deferred use areas (firing ranges and areas contaminated with war materiel), rural production areas (for forestry development and agroforestry) and rural production areas with conservation forests, located in the sectors to the east and west of the Panama Canal.

In the projects which were executed in areas contaminated by unexploded ordnance, the Ministry of the Environment requested the clean-up of the range, for which the plan for rescue and relocation of forest wildlife had to be carried out, in accordance with Resolution AG-0292 of 14 April 2008, before submitting the environmental impact study and the relevant workplan for environmental and industrial safety, health and hygiene.

The Panama National Police plays a fundamental role in disarmament. Therefore, the Secretary-General of the Central American Integration System offered training to experts in explosives and disarmament in order to analyse and make recommendations to the Central American Security Commission concerning the technical viability and operational relevance of the planning and implementation of the measures and activities contained in the Code of Conduct of the Central American States on the Transfer of Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the technical guidelines for marking the origin of firearms and ammunition for use by civilians, the police force and the military; and the legal framework governing international disarmament, weapons control and security agreements.

These legal measures and norms have allowed our national security institutions to care for our environment and maintain control in areas contaminated by war materiel.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[19 April 2018]

- Qatar possess weapons only internationally sanctioned conventional weapons, and only as much of those weapons as it needs to protect its national security in view of prevailing international and regional conditions. Qatar strives to increase the efficiency of its armaments through maintenance and training, thereby increasing the lifespan of its arsenal and obviating the need to increase the size thereof.

- Qatar is one of the few States that has an independent environmental body within its armed forces. Established in April 2004, the Environment Directorate has comprehensive authority to monitor the application and implementation of environmental standards and requirements in relation to all military activities carried out by the Qatari armed forces.

- The Environment Directorate, in cooperation and coordination with all forces, branches and units, strives to ensure that environmental standards and requirements are observed in all military activities. To that end, the Environment Directorate:

(a) Develops environmental requirements and standards for the armed forces and oversees the implementation thereof;

(b) Participates in the work of all committees that develop military exercises and manoeuvres. The relevant plans are given to the command unit responsible for exercises, in order to avoid damaging the environment or affecting its components or natural characteristics. The Environment Directorate monitors implementation of environment requirements and standards before, during and after the completion of the exercise. It should be noted that the above-mentioned environmental requirements and standards have been disseminated to all Qatari armed forces;

(c) Disposes of expired ammunition and missiles. The disposal process takes place under the supervision of the Environment Directorate, which issues the environmental certification for the disposal site and ensures that environmental safety standards and requirements are observed when disposing of ammunition and missiles. The Environment Directorate also collects samples from the disposal site, both before and after the disposal process. The samples are submitted for laboratory analysis in order to ensure that no environmental contamination has occurred;

(d) Oversees all firing exercises carried out by the various military units;

(e) Participates in the drafting domestic laws concerning the implementation of international conventions.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Ukraine is taking actions in accordance with the implementation agreement between the Cabinet of ministers of Ukraine and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Organization on the disposal of small arms, light weapons, conventional ammunition and anti-personnel landmines of the PFM-1 type and the agreement between Ukraine and the United States of America concerning assistance to Ukraine in the elimination of strategic nuclear arms and the prevention of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The production activities of the enterprise that is the main contractor for the elimination of PFM-1 landmines and SS-24 missile solid rocket motor propellant is certified under international standards, including ISO 14001: 2015 (environmental management systems). These systems have enabled it to: introduce unified requirements for all workers and subcontractors to ensure environmental safety in the enterprise; periodically inform and maintain an open dialogue with all stakeholders on the activities of the enterprise in the field of environmental safety; provide information on the results of the assessment of the impact of the economic activities of the enterprise on environmental objects; and publicly report on the activities of the enterprise in the field of environmental management and maintain strong public relations.

For the disposal of solid rocket propellant from SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missiles, the most environmentally friendly method is used, namely, the hydromechanical extraction of the propellant through the use of propellant-processing products in order to produce emulsion explosives. Such technology allows for the use of propellant products as secondary raw materials in emulsion explosives. This technology also meets international requirements. Emulsion explosives have all the required certificates approving their use, including those from State sanitary and environmental inspection authorities. At the same time, emulsion explosives can replace environmentally hazardous TNT-based explosives during blasting operations at mining facilities.

PFM-1 anti-personnel mines and wastes generated during the disposal of solid rocket propellant are destroyed at a specially equipped plant through a high-temperature treatment using a multistage combustion products cleaning system. The plant contains special equipment for the afterburning, filtration and neutralization of combustion products using advanced methods in order to prevent the release of harmful substances into the environment. To eliminate the waste generated during the disposal of solid rocket propellant, the equipment designed by the German company Eisenmann and manufactured and installed with the assistance of the United States is also used.

The hazard category of solid substances formed as a result of the disposal of solid rocket propellant and PFM-1 anti-personnel mines allows for the use of these substances in the construction of industrial facilities and maintenance of highways.